

Memo

From: Terry Whiteside
To: Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
Date: January 24, 2008
Re: Transportation Report



RAIL SHIPPER DAY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 2008 IN DC. ADDITIONALLY ARC WILL HOST A NUMBER OF MINI-SHIPPER DAYS. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN DC TO WORK TOGETHER WITH ALL THE SHIPPERS.



January 24, 2008

Report from ARC Executive Director – Mike Snovitch:

The ARC Executive Committee met on Tuesday, January 22nd and one of the main topics was Rail Shipper day or days.

ARC membership works with a large coalition of rail shippers in Washington DC in pursuit of our efforts to further legislative and educational action on the captive shipper problem and solutions.

It has become apparent that many industry groups and associations have independent functions and actions taking place in Washington during the months of February, March and April.

It is important for all of these folks to participate in Rail shipper representation on the Hill and that can best be accomplished by doing a number of smaller shipper days in addition to the large shipper day that has now been scheduled for March 12th.

For example, the U.S. Wheat and National Association of Wheat Growers are in town in early February (February 3-6th), while the National Barley Growers Association is in town in late February (February 24-26th). The Glass producers are in town later in the 1st quarter. Soybeans, Dry Peas and Beans will be in at other times. Some organizations do regional meetings in DC.

In addition to the main Rail Shipper Day in DC, ARC will be working to schedule with each industry group mini-shipper days to ensure that each group will have a full effort to educate Congressional folks and staffs on the captive rail shipper issues. Other captive shippers are welcome to join in these mini-shipper days – as they are announced. Just let ARC know of your plans.

The next 4-5 months are critical to the shipper efforts on the Hill on HR 2125 and S953 – the Railroad Competition and Service Improvement Acts. It appears that efforts will be made by the nation's railroads to include the Investment Tax Credit bill in the new Economic Stimulus package being considered by Congress. It thus becomes very important that shippers work on getting the provisions of HR 2125 and S953 attached and linked thus providing a win-win for Congress, the railroads and the shippers.

It is critical that we have as much participation by rail shippers in rail shippers days as possible. This is your year for possible success.

Please let us know when you and/or your folks/groups will be in DC and we will make sure you have the tools and briefing materials to provide education on rail shipper issues for your Congressional reps.

We will have an announcement out on the 4th Annual Rail Shipper day in the next couple of days – mark your calendar – March 12th in DC. Hope you can attend.

Mike Snovitch, Executive Director